

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services	Effective Date: June 1, 2008
	Section 16: Resource Parent(s) Role	Version: 1

POLICY: EXPANDED	OLD POLICY: 404.2
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will require the resource family to:

1. Participate in supporting the Case Plan goals.
2. Provide a positive, nurturing, environment for the child.
3. Provide for the child's basic needs (e.g., food, clothing and shelter). See separate policy, [8.19 Clothing and Personal Items](#).
4. Maintain discretion when sharing information regarding the child and the child's family.
5. Encourage and support the maximum amount of interaction between the parent/guardian/custodian and the child, with consideration given to:
 - a) The child's comfort level,
 - b) Safety concerns, and
 - c) The needs of the child.
6. Refrain from speaking negatively about any member of the child's family or other persons with whom the child has a significant relationship.
7. Encourage the child to express feelings about his/her situation (e.g., feelings regarding the initial separation, abuse or neglect suffered, reunification (if applicable), visitation, etc.).
8. Maintain a neutral attitude when discussing visitation or other parent/guardian/custodian interaction with the child.
9. Participate as a member of the Child and Family Team (CFT). See separate policy, [5.7 Family Team Meetings](#).
10. Participate in court hearings when notified.

Code References

N/A

PROCEDURE

Regarding the resource family role, the Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Review and discuss the above policy statement with the resource family.
2. Obtain the resource family's signature on the signature page attached to this policy as documentation that the resource family has received a copy of the policy, understands the policy and agrees to its terms.
3. Provide the resource family with one copy of the policy and the signed signature page, and place the original signed signature page in the case file.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

Supporting the Child's Positive Identification with His/Her Family of Origin

One of the most important resource family roles is to support the child's positive identification and positive relationship with the child's family of origin. This is true regardless of the amount of parent/guardian/custodian interaction and involvement prescribed by the Case Plan and Visitation Plan. A child identifying with his/her family is very important, regardless of the permanency goal. The relationship between the child and his/her family has a long-term affect on the child's self-esteem and future emotional well-being. See separate policy, [8.11 Parental Interaction and Involvement](#) for a detailed matrix that describes the levels of interaction between children and their parent/guardian/custodian, and the corresponding levels of involvement that the parent/guardian/custodian will have in their child's life.

SIGNATURES

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of, understand and agree to the terms of the _____ policy.

Substitute caregiver 1:

(Printed name)

(Signature)

(Date)

Substitute caregiver 2:

(Printed name)

(Signature)

(Date)